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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,707	12/29/2001	Lokman bin Mohamed Hassan	1291.P001US/HCH/mms	7552
7590 10/14/2003				
LAWRENCE N. GINSBERG 907 CITRUS PLACE NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660-3227				
EXAMINER HOLLINGTON, JERMELE M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2829				

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/037,707	BIN MOHAMED HASSAN, LOKMAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jermele M. Hollington	2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carbone et al (6580283).

Regarding claim 1, Carbone et al disclose [see Fig. 1] a docking system comprising: a handler plate (probe plate 14), mountable to said device handler [not shown] and comprising at least one conversion bar (flange 40), each of said at least one conversion bar (40) comprising at least one lateral protrusion (cam follower arrangement 250 [fig. 20]); and a tester plate (chuck plate 12), mountable to said test head [not shown] and comprising at least one slot mount (cam plate 260), each of said at least one slot mount (260) having an escalating slot (groove 270), said

escalating slot (270) being laterally oriented for respective linear engagement with said at least one lateral protrusion for said docking.

Regarding claim 2, Carbone et al disclose said escalating slot (270) comprises a tapered section and a docking section [not numbered but shown in Fig. 21].

Regarding claim 3, Carbone et al disclose said tapered section comprises a linear sloping edge (cam surface 272) and a linear non-sloping edge (cam surface 274), said linear non-sloping edge (274) being linearly aligned with a linear docking edge of said docking section [not numbered but shown in Fig. 21].

Regarding claim 4, Carbone et al disclose said escalating slot (270) comprises an unbounded perimeter portion.

Regarding claim 5, Carbone et al disclose said tapered section further comprises a connecting portion [not numbered but shown in Fig. 21] for enabling substantially linear movement of said at least one lateral protrusion (250) from said unbounded perimeter portion to said linear non-sloping edge.

Regarding claim 6, Carbone et al disclose said tester plate (12) further comprises a cam assembly (combination of cam plate 260 and cam follower 250), coupled to said at least one slot mount (270), for enabling said respective linear engagement when actuated.

Regarding claim 7, Carbone et al disclose said cam assembly comprises at least one actuating cam (combination of ball bearing 258 and short shaft 256).

Regarding claim 8, Carbone et al disclose said cam assembly comprises at least one coupling rod (extending portion 254).

Regarding claim 9, Carbone et al disclose said cam assembly comprises at least one interconnecting cam (combination of ball bearing 258 and short shaft 256).

Regarding claim 10, Carbone et al disclose said tester plate (12) further comprises at least one linear guide (cam surfaces 272 and 274), said at least one slot mount (groove 270) being respectively coupled with said at least one linear guide (272).

Regarding claim 11, Carbone et al disclose each of said at least one conversion bar (40) further comprises at least one reference locating pin (92).

Regarding claim 12, Carbone et al disclose each of said at least one conversion bar (40) further comprises at least one adjustable screw spacer (wheels 34 or 36).

Regarding claim 13, Carbone et al further comprising at least one pre-docking guide pin, mountable to at least one predetermined guide pin position of said handler plate.

Regarding claim 14, Carbone et al a docking system [Fig. 1] comprising: a handler plate (probe plate 14); a tester plate (chuck plate 12); and a coupling assembly (cam plate 260 and cam follower 250) for enabling said docking, said coupling assembly (250 and 260) being associated with said handler plate (14) and said tester plate (12) and comprising: at least one conversion bar (flange 40), each of said at least one conversion bar (40) comprising at least one lateral protrusion (extending portion 254); at least one slot mount (groove 270), each of said at least one slot mount (270) having an escalating slot [not numbered but shown in Fig. 21], said escalating slot being laterally oriented for respective linear engagement with said at least one lateral protrusion (254); and a cam assembly (250 and 260), coupled to said at least one slot mount (270), for enabling said respective linear engagement when actuated.

Regarding claim 15, Carbone et al disclose said escalating slot (270) comprises a tapered section and a docking section [not numbered but shown in Fig. 21].

Regarding claim 16, Carbone et al disclose said tapered section comprises a linear sloping edge (cam surface 272) and a linear non-sloping edge (cam surface 274), said linear non-sloping edge (274) being linearly aligned with a linear docking edge of said docking section [not numbered but shown in Fig. 21].

Regarding claim 17, Carbone et al disclose said escalating slot (270) comprises an unbounded perimeter portion.

Regarding claim 18, Carbone et al disclose said tapered section further comprises a connecting portion [not numbered but shown in Fig. 21] for enabling substantially linear movement of said at least one lateral protrusion (250) from said unbounded perimeter portion to said linear non-sloping edge.

Regarding claim 19, Carbone et al disclose said cam assembly comprises at least one actuating cam (combination of ball bearing 258 and short shaft 256).

Regarding claim 20, Carbone et al disclose said cam assembly comprises at least one coupling rod (extending portion 254).

Regarding claim 21, Carbone et al disclose said cam assembly comprises at least one interconnecting cam (combination of ball bearing 258 and short shaft 256).

Regarding claim 22, Carbone et al disclose said tester plate (12) further comprises at least one linear guide (cam surfaces 272 and 274), said at least one slot mount (groove 270) being respectively coupled with said at least one linear guide (272).

Regarding claim 23, Carbone et al disclose each of said at least one conversion bar (40) further comprises at least one reference locating pin (92).

Regarding claim 24, Carbone et al disclose each of said at least one conversion bar (40) further comprises at least one adjustable screw spacer (wheels 34 or 36).

Regarding claim 25, Carbone et al further comprising at least one pre-docking guide pin, mountable to at least one predetermined guide pin position of said handler plate.

Regarding claim 26, Carbone et al disclose a method comprising the steps of: aligning a handler plate (probe plate 14) to a tester plate (chuck plate 12) using at least one pre-docking guide pin (flange 40), said at least one pre-docking guide pin (40) being mountable to said handler plate (14) and respectively engageable with at least one pin socket (sleeve 66), said at least one pin socket (66) being associated with said tester plate (12); and actuating at least one actuating cam (cam plate 260) associated with said tester plate (12) to thereby enable respective linear engagement of at least one escalating slot (270) of said tester plate (12) with at least one lateral protrusion (extending portion 254) for said docking, said at least one lateral protrusion (254) being associated with each of at least one conversion bar (40), said at least one conversion bar (40) being mounted to said handler plate (14).

Regarding claim 27, Carbone et al disclose said aligning step comprises the step of positioning, respectively, each of said at least one lateral protrusion (254) at an unbounded perimeter portion (not numbered but shown in Fig. 21) of each of said at least one escalating slot (270).

Regarding claim 28, Carbone et al further comprising the step of locking said at least one actuating cam (ball bearing 258 and short shaft 256) in a locking position.

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Regarding claim 29, Carbone et al further comprising the step of unlocking said at least one actuating cam (ball bearing 258 and short shaft 256) from said locking position.

Regarding claim 30, Carbone et al said unlocking step comprises the step of moving a latch handle to thereby release a retaining clip.

Conclusion

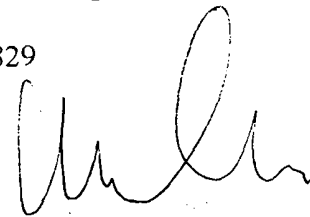
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Parmenter (5068601), Holt (5608334), Botka et al (5923180), Burgers et al (5966023), Vallinan et al (6271658), Jordan (6304092), Bunzey et al (6333637) and Hannan et al (6407541) disclose a method and apparatus for a docking system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermele M. Hollington whose telephone number is (703) 305-1653. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-4:30 EST) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (703) 308-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Jermele M. Hollington
Examiner
Art Unit 2829



JMH
/JMH

September 24, 2003